

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A tuyere device for introducing gaseous media under a liquid-metal layer, comprising:

a nest block made of refractory material, said block being provided with a sleeve incorporated ~~therein and formed by~~ in the block including coaxial metal tubes ~~provided with defining~~ at least one central operating channel and at least one annular operating channel which are arranged on ~~[[the]]~~ a first side thereof intended of the block for introduction into liquid metal, and are separately connected to inlets for supplying gaseous media to ~~the~~ liquid metal~~[[,]]~~ on an opposite second side of the block;

~~wherein the~~ said coaxial metal tubes along their length ~~consist consisting~~ of two interconnected sections having different diameters, the first section ~~being at the first side of the block and~~ having a smaller diameter and being ~~intended~~ for supplying the gaseous media to the liquid metal and the second section ~~being at the second side of the block and~~ having ~~a~~ larger diameter ~~than said first section~~ and being connected to gas supply inlets for ~~separate separately~~ supplying the gaseous media to the operating channels of the first section~~[[,]]~~

~~whereas~~ the second section ~~is provided with~~ including an additional central metal tube ~~and with defining an annular operating channels channel only with an inner one of the coaxial metal tubes, while a the~~ central tube of ~~[[this]]~~ said second section ~~[[is]]~~ being closed on ~~[[the]]~~ both ends thereof and filled with a refractory material, ~~[[the]]~~ gaps of said annular operating channels in ~~[[this]]~~ said second section ~~of the tuyere being embodied in the form of capillaries for the liquid metal.~~

Claim 2 (currently amended): The tuyere device of Claim 1, wherein the [[said]] annular operating channels, provided in the second section of the coaxial metallic tubes, on the portions of passage into the operating channel's first section are outlined by straight conical surfaces featuring smooth conjunction in the passage ends and the end portion of the internal tube at least on said passage portion, passes into a conical rod coaxially located in the central operating channel of the first section.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The tuyere device of Claim 1, wherein the [[said]] annular channels of the coaxial metal tubes' second section feature spherical surface, providing also smooth passage, end conjunction on the portions of passing into the first section's operating channels, whereas the end portion of the internal tube at least on this passage portion passes to a conical rod located coaxially in the central operating channel of the first section.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The tuyere device of Claim 1, wherein the [[said]] annular operating channels are calibrated in the second section of the sleeve by means of placing between the tubes a gauge spring having initial diameter less than the external diameter of the tube on which such spring is installed.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The tuyere device of Claim 1, wherein the ~~said internal tube~~ inner one of the coaxial tubes of the second section of the coaxial metal tubes is provided with calibrated ribs located across its external diameter, whereas such calibrated ribs are provided also on the portion of passage of the coaxial metal tubes' second section into the first section.

Claim 6 (original): The tuyere device of Claim 1, wherein the sleeve's second section tubes are provided with an annular weld seam.

Claim 7 (new): A tuyere device for introducing gaseous media under a liquid-metal layer, comprising:

a nest block made of refractory material, said block being provided with a sleeve incorporated in the block including coaxial metal tubes defining at least one central operating channel and at least one annular operating channel which are arranged on a first side of the block for introduction into liquid metal, and are separately connected to inlets for supplying gaseous media to liquid metal on an opposite second side of the block;

said coaxial metal tubes along their length consisting of two interconnected sections having different diameters, the first section being at the first side of the block and having a smaller diameter and being for supplying the gaseous media to the liquid metal and the second section being at the second side of the block and having a larger diameter than said first section and being connected to gas supply inlets for separately supplying the gaseous media to the operating channels of the first section;

the second section including an additional central metal tube defining an annular operating channel only with an inner one of the coaxial metal tubes, the central tube of said second section being closed on both ends thereof and filled with a refractory material, gaps of said annular operating channels in said second section being capillaries for the liquid metal;

the diameter of said coaxial metal tubes decreasing in a consistent and gradual manner in a passage from said second section toward said first section; and

at least one end of the central tube of said second section on said passage,

becomes a conical rod coaxially located in the central operating channel of the first section.

Claim 8 (new) The tuyere device of Claim 7, wherein the diameter of said coaxial metal tubes decrease in straight conical surfaces or in spherical surfaces, and both ends of the central tube are conical rods coaxially located in the central operating channel.